

FELLOWS PROGRAM

Announcement for FY 2000
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Program Purposes

The CSREES Fellows Program offers land-grant faculty and staff from selected institutions the opportunity to work and study with USDA staff in Washington, D.C., for a period of up to 3 months. The purposes of the program are:

- (1) strengthen the land-grant partnership with USDA;
- (2) enhance the Fellows' professional growth, thereby improving the quality of teaching, extension, and research programs at the designated institutions; and
- (3) promote workforce diversity.

Participating Institutions

This competitive program is designed to meet the needs and interests of 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Tuskegee University, the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, and the Land-Grant Institutions in American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Any land-grant faculty or staff member affiliated with these institutions may apply, including those who applied in previous years and were not selected.

Expected Outcomes

Fellows will increase their understanding of the Land-Grant System, particularly at the national level, and its relationship to Federal agencies and National organizations, thereby strengthening the system. Also, USDA staff will become more knowledgeable about programs and issues important to the system and the participating institutions. As a result, Fellows will increase their communications with system members and partners at State and National levels.

Projects

While in Washington, D.C., Fellows are expected to conduct projects relevant to their interests and the needs of their institutions and USDA, working in collaboration with one or more mentors on the CSREES staff. Fellows also receive an orientation especially designed for this program.

Additional Information

For further information, please contact Mildred Taylor at 202-720-5623 (voice); 202-720-4924 (fax); or mtaylor@reeusda.gov.

Applications are Due March 30, 2000

CSREES Fellows Program Application Nomination Procedures

Applications/nominations are now being accepted for participation in the CSREES Fellows Program for the period June through August 2000. Submit typed or printed applications to the CSREES Fellows Program, c/o Mattie Merritt, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 2213, Washington, D.C., 20250, or fax 202-720-4924. The deadline for receipt of applications is March 30, 2000.

Applicants are requested to complete all sections of the attached form, and nominations must include Sections 1 and 2 and factors that would describe the potential benefits of a fellows experience in Washington. The Agency will contact the nominee for additional information.

A letter of concurrence and support from the applicant's Administrator, Director, or President must accompany the application.

Projects

Prospective applicants are encouraged to propose specific projects after consultation with CSREES senior staff and deputy administrators. The text below suggests possible fellowship projects to convey the Program's potential. The list is illustrative; other topics are equally appropriate.

An applicant with research interest might propose one of the following projects:

- ! summarize the interplay between public policy and on-going research (e.g., in natural resources areas such as forestry and water quality);
- ! participate in risk assessment and regulatory activities regarding the safety of food animal origin or examine public health risk issues;
- ! identify data sources and resources at the Federal level relevant to a specific research topic of interest; or
- ! participate in the administration of competitive research grants, including solicitation and review of research proposals and grant awards.

An applicant interested in higher education might propose one of the following:

- ! assisting in the administration of a National higher education competitive grants program, including coordinating scientific review panels;
- ! identifying and disseminating baseline data with which to analyze attributes and trends in higher education in the food and agricultural sciences;
- ! assisting in the management of an international program which sends faculty abroad to assist ongoing projects in a variety of countries; or
- ! assisting in the management of the Current Research Information System (*CRIS) and its data collection analysis, and dissemination activities.

Cooperative Extension educators might propose one of the following:

- ! identify teaching resources to be included in a family economics world wide web site from inside and outside extension, critiquing available resources and noting gaps;
- ! collaborate with CSREES agricultural economists in launching a National initiative “Managing Change in Agriculture,” focusing on decision making and system linkage within a particular sector of agriculture or community (e.g., small farms or small towns);
- ! plan or conduct a program on a priority topic (e.g., horticulture, health) that requires extensive contact with Federal and state staff;
- ! provide leadership for parts of a National initiative focusing on a specific audience (e.g., limited resource audiences, 4-H), approach (e.g., distance education) or set of institutions; and
- ! study management aspects of Federal legislation, Departmental directives, and links to other National groups, including partnership organizations such as NASULGC, ESCOP, ECOP, ACOP, ICOP, etc.

Applicants with interests in cross-cutting research, extension, and higher education might describe accomplishments in a given topical area and design ways of giving them greater visibility; participate in the administrative and financial management of Federal Assistance Programs for research and education; participate in the CSREES budget process including budget compilation, justification, legislative interaction, and overall budget management; or participate in the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and learn the effects of GPRA on CSREES and university partners.

Applicants also have opportunities to describe other interests outside of the illustrations above. Applications with clear, well-focused project references will be given priority.

Selection

A CSREES review panel will screen applications and recommend candidates in priority order. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their interest and the needs of sending institutions and CSREES.

Support

USDA will furnish travel expenses to and from Washington, D.C., per diem expenses (\$23 for meals and incidentals), plus daily commuting costs. The sending institution will continue to pay salary and benefits.

Information

For more information, contact Mildred Taylor at 202-720-5623 (voice); 202-720-4924 (fax); or mtaylor@reesuda.gov.

**2000 CSREES Fellows Program
Application Form**

Please complete the following questions, using additional paper where necessary.

1. Name: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

(If not shown in address)

Work Phone(s): _____

Fax Number: _____

Internet Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

2. Background Information. In the space below or on a separate sheet of paper, briefly describe your professional career:

Current Affiliation (circle all that apply):

Research

Higher Education

Extension

International Programs

Library Programs

Agriculture Natural Sciences

Family & Consumer Sciences

Veterinary Programs

Other allied disciplines (please specify)

Youth Programs

Education and training, including highest degree earned, and fields of specialization.

C. Positions held, responsibilities, and accomplishments:

3. What kind of project would you like to work on while in Washington, D.C.?

. Where do you plan to be career-wise 5 years from now?

. How might a fellowship at USDA affect your career, your university's program(s) and their customers?

. In the space below, please provide other comments to support your nomination?

7. Please indicate the name(s) of any CSREES staff you contacted while preparing this application:

Submit applications for the CSREES Fellows Program to Mattie Merritt, USDA/CSREES, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Mail Stop 2213, Washington, D.C., 20250, or fax 202-720-4924. Applications must be received by March 30, 2000. A letter of concurrence and support from the applicant's Administrator or Director must accompany the application.